

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FSI-01 /007 W
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R 211200Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 351

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3146

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS/ AFSP, CE
SUBJ: TWO-WEEK COURSE IN ECONOMICS, TRADE AND MODERN DIPLOMACY,
TUNIS, MAY 6 - 17, 1974

REF: STATE 236198

FOR NEA/EX

1. REFTEL SOLICITED NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS NOT SPECIALIZING IN ECONOMICS TO ATTEND FSI-SPONSORED TWO-WEEK ECONOMICS COURSE IN TUNIS NEXT MAY. WE BELIEVE POLITICAL/LABOR OFFICER ALBERT THIBAUT WOULD BE EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR THIS TRAINING. HOWEVER, BUDGETED TRAVEL FUNDS HAVE BEEN HEAVILY DRAWN DOWN IN FIRST HALF FISCAL YEAR AND FUNDS REMAINING ARE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER BOTH IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL BY POST PERSONNEL FOR SECOND HALF OF FISCAL YEAR AND EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH THIS COURSE.

2. TRAVEL COSTS FOR COURSE WOULD BE NIL SINCE THIBAUT HAD ALREADY PLANNED TAKE R&R IN EUROPE AT APPROX SAME TIME AND THERE WOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL COST TO ROUTE HIM THROUGH TUNIS. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE NECESSARY FUNDS TO COVER PER DIEM.

3. WE CANNOT REPROGRAM BECAUSE IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL IS ALREADY AT BARE MINIMUM. FURTHER REDUCTION WOULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER REQUIRED POLITICAL/ECONOMIC REPORTING. IT WOULD ALSO BE DIFFICULT CUT BACK MINIMAL SERVICES OR PURCHASES OF BADLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

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4. WE THEREFORE REQUEST BUREAU INCREASE POST PROGRAM ALLOTMENT

BY \$550 TO COVER PER DIEM FOR TWO-WEEK PERIOD. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
QUICK REPLY TO ENABLE US RESPOND TO FSI BY DEADLINE (END OF
DECEMBER).
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB03146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731211/aaaaahxz.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 236198
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by williad>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO-WEEK COURSE IN ECONOMICS, TRADE AND MODERN DIPLOMACY, TUNIS, MAY 6 - 17, 1974
TAGS: AFSP, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005